

Listing of the claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A process for producing a foam composite having a skin with an even thickness[,], and a core comprising [[a]] foamed [[body]] bodies with homogeneous and fine bubbles[,], and spherical plastic reinforcing members with an even thickness covering each of the foamed bodies, comprising:

charging a mold with one of plastic powders and plastic minute particles, and polyolefin pellets that are larger than the one of the plastic powders and the plastic minute particles, wherein the polyolefin pellets are covered ~~in a portion or~~ in the whole surface with plastic and are ~~cross-linked and foamed~~ cross-linkable and foamable; and

heating the mold from the outside of the mold;

rotating the mold at within a range from 1 to 20 rpm, so that a plastic skin is formed and the pellets adhere to the skin; and

further heating the mold, thereby permitting the polyolefin cross-links and the pellets to expand by the decomposition of a foaming agent, wherein

the thickness of the skin is within a range from 1 to 10 mm;

a number of the foamed bodies, which are bonded each other to constitute the core, are formed from the polyolefin pellets;

a number of the foamed bodies are connected in three dimensions;

the density of the foamed [[body]] bodies is from 0.1 to 0.01 g/cm³;

the diameter of the foamed [[body]] bodies is from 5 to 25 mm; [[and]]

the thickness of the spherical reinforcing members is from 0.05 to 0.5 mm;

the thickness of the core is from 10 to 100 mm ; and

the thickness of the foam composite is 25 mm or more.

3. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, further comprising:

covering a rod of polyolefin with plastic;

compressing the rod of polyolefin in a molten state to thickness of 0.3 mm or more;

cutting the rod of polyolefin; ~~in a molten state~~

bonding edge sections of the rod of polyolefin, thereby obtaining pellets with a covering of the plastic in the whole polyolefin surface to form the polyolefin pellets; and

foaming the polyolefin pellets, thereby permitting the foam composite to have a skin with an even thickness and a core, in which nearly even size granular foamed bodies with a covering of a reinforcing member with practically even thickness are integrated, bonded mutually, filling in the core, and further, bonded to the skin.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the plastic powders and the plastic minute particles contain a foaming agent within a range from 1 to 10 PHR.

7. (Original) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, wherein the plastic used for covering the polyolefin that can be cross-linked and foamed contains a foaming agent within a range from 1 to 10 PHR.

8. (Original) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, wherein the quantity of the plastic pellets used is adjusted so that a hollow section with a similar figure to the foam composite is provided in the center thereof.

9. (Original) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, wherein one of rubber waste, plastic waste, composite material waste and the foam composite waste is crushed, and the mold is charged with the crushed waste, permitting the waste to be enclosed inside.

10. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 1, wherein the plastic powders or the plastic minute particles is one of high density polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, and [[the]] a mixture thereof.

11. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, wherein the plastic used for covering the polyolefin that can be cross-linked and foamed is one of high density polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, and [[the]] a mixture thereof.

12. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein flame retardant plastic is used as the plastic powders or the plastic minute particles, or a flame retardant is added to the plastic powders and the plastic minute particles.

13. (Original) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, wherein the foam composite has metal fittings inside, and the fittings are secured strongly with the reinforcing members.

14. (Currently amended) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the plastic powders and the plastic minute particles contain one of polyethylene and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, and an organic peroxide within a range from 0.2 to 2.0 PHR.

15. (Withdrawn) A storage method wherein a large can is made by the process according to claim 1, a stainless steel can which contains radioactive waste is placed inside of the large can, low-molecular weight rubber which melts at 100° C. while does not melt at 40° C. is filled between the two cans, and a lid is provided, permitting the storage of the radioactive waste.

16. (Withdrawn) An oil fence that enables recovery of oil, wherein a plurality of a foam composite long cylinder with a semicircular cross-section, and a concave and a convex section at the either end of the cylinder enabling the cylinders to be joined together, are formed according to claim 1, the cylinders are joined together and installed in the sea so that the half of the cylinder is submerged and the sea level reaches the semicircular center position of the cylinder.

17. (Withdrawn) A construction material, wherein four square-shape holes are formed for each end surfaces of a square pillar and adjacent four side surfaces thereof by the process

according to claim 1, and the square pillar is joined to another square pillar with a joint member having twice the size of the hole, further, a board with holes is brought together with the joint member.

18. (Withdrawn) A flotation material, that floats being possible to be driven on water, wherein one of a board and a boat of a foam composite is formed by the process according to claim 1, and a motor, a screw, a battery, and a switch are fixed on the board and the boat.

19. (Withdrawn) A chair for a vehicle, wherein a seat, an elbow, and a back are formed in an one-construction shaped body by the process according to claim 1, and a bolt or a nut is embedded in the lower side middle of the seat, permitting the chair to be fixed on a vehicle.

20. (Withdrawn) A container that is readily assembled and dismantled, wherein a board with one of a convex section and a concave section is formed according to claim 1, four of the board are assembled respectively as a side member, and two of the board with one of a convex section and a concave section are joined to the side members, one in the upper side and another in the lower side, composing the bottom and the lid of the container.

21. (Withdrawn) A container which comprises a box-shape body that is formed by folding a board with grooves along the grooves, wherein the board is formed by the process according to claim 1, and the board has rectangular board parts which form the sides of the container, being connected to the four side sections of a square board part, and grooves being provided in the section where the square board part and the rectangular board parts are connected together.

22. (Withdrawn) A seat for a vehicle that is produced by the process according to claim 1, wherein the seat is composed of one of a large rectangular body with a soft skin, and a large rectangular body with a hollow section.

23. (Withdrawn) A corrosion-preventive method for a steel pipe, wherein a two-piece cover is made by the process according to claim 1, and the portion of the steel pipe, that is

soaked in seawater and is dried by turns, is covered with the two-piece cover, thereby preventing seawater from coming in.

24. (Withdrawn) An insulated pipe with one of a male and a female screw at both ends for enabling the connection of the pipe is produced by the process according to claim 1, wherein the pipe is composed of a foam composite comprising a skin, a foamed body, and, if necessary, reinforcing members.

25. (Withdrawn) A complex body of a foam composite produced by a process according to claim 1, wherein the foam composite is placed in a closed metal body and adhered to the metal body.

26. (Withdrawn) The polyolefin pellet that can be cross-linked and foamed, which is used in the process according to claim 3, wherein a rod with the size from 2 to 10 mm in diameter is extruded with polyolefin that can be cross-linked and foamed, provided with a plastic covering of the thickness from 0.5 to 5 mm on the surface of the rod, compressed and cut in the molten state with a cutter having an end of an acute angle so that the plastic of both ends to be bonded and the thickness of the bonded section to be 0.3 mm or greater.

27. (Withdrawn) Equipment for manufacturing a double-layered foaming pellet which is used in a process according to claim 2, wherein the equipment comprises extruders and a cross head die, one extruder being able to extrude a mixture of polyolefin with a cross-linking agent and a foaming agent into a rod with the size from 2 to 10 mm, and another extruder being able to provide a plastic covering with thickness from 0.5 to 5 mm on the rod, enabling thus obtained double-layered rod to be cut in a molten state so that the covering being bonded and the thickness at the section being within a range from 0.3 mm to 5 mm, and the cutting thereof within a range from 3 to 15 mm in length being possible.

28. (Withdrawn) The double-layered foaming pellet that is used in a process according to claim 2, comprising a pellet of polyolefin mixed with a cross-linking agent and a foaming agent, having a size from 8 to 1000 mm³, and a plastic covering with an even thickness from 0.5

to 5 mm on the pellet, the covering being bonded in both ends having a thickness of 0.3 mm or greater, permitting all surface of the double-layered foaming pellet being covered and the shape thereof being rectangular when the pellet is seen toward the direction of the compression, while being bulged in the center and flat in the end section when the pellet is seen from the side.

29. (Withdrawn) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 1, wherein the skin has a thickness of 2 mm or greater, enabling that the foam composite absorbs almost no moisture.

30. (New) The process for producing a foam composite according to claim 2, further comprising:

- extruding a polyolefin, which is cross-linkable and foamable, into a rod of poly olefin with a diameter of 2 to 10 mm;

- covering the rod of polyolefin with a plastic, thereby obtaining the rod of polyolefin with a covering of the plastic with a thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm;

- compressing the rod of polyolefin in a molten state to have a thickness of 0.3 mm or more;

- cutting the rod of polyolefin; and

- bonding edge sections of the rod of polyolefin, thereby obtaining the polyolefin pellets with the covering of the plastic in the whole polyolefin surface.